

Application No.: 10/849,972

Case No.: 59591US002

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

The following list of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A three-dimensional textured stair tread cover article comprising:

a first portion having a first surface, a second surface, and at least one side wall extending between said first and said second surfaces; and
a second portion having a first surface positioned at a substantially permanent angle relative to said first surface of said first portion, a second surface, and at least one side wall extending between said first and said second surfaces of said second portion,

wherein said angle between said first surface of said first portion and said first surface of said second portion is at least 45 degrees; and said first portion and said second portion are integral and comprise a web and a binder, said web comprising a multitude of substantially continuous three-dimensionally undulated thermoplastic filaments autogenously bonded where they contact one another, wherein said filaments have a diameter in a range from 0.1 to 3 mm and said web has a coil weight in a range from 0.1 to 3.0 kg/m².

2. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic filaments comprise a polyamide.

3. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 wherein said thermoplastic filaments comprise at least one of polycaprolactam or poly(hexamethylene adipamide).

4. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 further comprising a quantity of particles affixed to at least one of said first or second surfaces of said first portion.

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5. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 4 wherein said quantity of particles is in the range of 0.1 to 5 kg/m².

6. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 5 wherein said quantity of particles comprise at least one of slag, alumina, thermoplastic polymer, thermoset polymer, glass, mullite, sand, rubber, pumice, topaz, garnet, corundum, silicon carbide, zirconia, ceramic aluminum oxide, or diamond.

7. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 wherein said binder comprises polyurethane.

8. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 further comprising a size coat.

9. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 8 wherein said size coat comprises polyurethane.

10. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 8 wherein said size coat further comprises yellow colorant.

11. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 8 further comprising a graphic on said first surface of said first portion.

12. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 further comprising a third portion integral with at least one of said first or said second portion, said third portion comprising a first surface, a second surface, and at least one side wall extending between said first and said second surfaces of said third portion.

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13. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 12 wherein said third portion is integral with said second portion, and said first surface of said third portion is positioned at an angle of at least 45 degrees relative to said first surface of said second portion.

14. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 wherein said first and second portions are each substantially planar.

15. (currently amended) The textured stair tread cover article of claim 1 wherein said sidewall extending between said first and second surfaces of said first portion is in the range of 0.5 cm to 8 cm high.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) A stairway comprising the textured stair tread cover article of claim 1.

18. (currently amended) A ladder rung comprising the textured stair tread cover article of claim 1.

19. (withdrawn) A method for making a three-dimensional textured stair tread cover article comprising:

providing a nonwoven sheet comprising a web and a binder, said web comprising a multitude of substantially continuous three-dimensionally undulated thermoplastic filaments autogenously bonded where they contact one another, wherein said filaments have a diameter in a range from 0.1 to 3 mm and said nonwoven sheet has a coil weight in a range from 0.1 to 3.0 kg/m²;

heating at least a portion of said nonwoven sheet;

positioning a first portion of said nonwoven sheet at an angle relative to a second portion of said nonwoven sheet; and

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cooling said nonwoven sheet to form a substantially permanent angle of at least 45 degrees between a first surface of said first portion and a first surface of said second portion.

20. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19 further comprising:
providing an outer forming tray comprising a first forming surface and a second forming surface positioned at an angle relative to said first forming surface; and
placing at least a portion of said nonwoven sheet in said outer forming tray such that said first portion of said nonwoven sheet contacts said first forming surface and said second portion of said nonwoven sheet contacts said second forming surface.

21. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 further comprising cooling said nonwoven sheet in said forming tray.

22. (withdrawn) The method of claim 20 further comprising placing an inner forming tray in at least a portion of said outer forming tray such that at least one of said first portion or said second portion of said nonwoven sheet simultaneously contacts said inner and said outer forming trays.

23. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein said heating occurs in an oven set at a temperature in the range of 190 to 205 degrees Celsius.

24. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein said thermoplastic filaments comprise a polyamide.

25. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19 further comprising printing said nonwoven sheet.

26. (withdrawn) The method of claim 19 wherein said nonwoven sheet further comprises a quantity of particles.